



Statement of Anticipated Evidence: Chris Garrah

Questions about this Statement of Anticipated Evidence should be directed to Alexandra Heine.

Commission Counsel anticipate that Mr. Garrah will provide the following evidence if he is called as a witness at the public hearings:

Background

- Chris Garrah lives in Mallorytown, Ontario. He is a contractor for windows and doors. He also builds playgrounds.
- Mr. Garrah is originally from Kingston, Ontario. He is married and is a father to seven children.

Warroomcanada.net Website

- Mr. Garrah started a website called Warroomcanada.net at the beginning of the implantation of COVID-19 lockdowns and mandates. He conducted interviews and posted on the website. Mr. Garrah reported on protests that were held in opposition of COVID-19 lockdowns and mandates.
- Mr. Garrah was acquainted with James Bauder because he interviewed him and posted the video of the interview on warroomcanada.net. He did not know most of the Freedom Convoy ("**Convoy**") organizers, including Tamara Lich, Brigitte Belton, Chris Barber, and Patrick King until meeting them in a Zoom meeting on January 18, 2022.
- Mr. Garrah was told that the Convoy organizers heard of him because of Warroomcanada.net from Mr. Bauder.
- Mr. Garrah had never seen Mr. King's social media posts until January 2022 and then watched a few of Mr. King's livestreams on social media announcing that he was heading to Ottawa with a convoy.

Early Involvement

- Mr. Garrah took part in a Zoom meeting with the Convoy organizers Ms. Lich, Ms. Belton, Mr. Barber, Mr. King, Mr. Bauder, and three accountants on January 18, 2022.
- The Convoy organizers informed Mr. Garrah of their plans to convoy to Ottawa. Mr. Garrah said he would help them out with preparation of food and other necessities prior to their arrival but only if the demonstrations were done peacefully, and no one was breaking the law.
- There was an agreement between the attendees of the Zoom meeting that if the someone was inciting violence they would be asked to leave. Eventually, the



Convoy organizers created a code of conduct that the truckers participating in the convoy heading to Ottawa had to sign. Mr. Garrah agreed this was a good idea.

- Prior to his involvement in the convoy, Mr. Garrah had not been involved in protests before (except for attending protests against COVID-19 lockdowns and mandates to interview attendees) and was not involved in partisan politics with the exception of supporting a local candidate for the first time in the 2021 Federal Election.
- Mr. Garrah has never registered or taken out a membership with any political party at the federal or municipal level.

Chad Eros and Freedom 2022

- Mr. Garrah is a friend of Chad Eros.
- Mr. Eros wanted to establish a not-for-profit corporation to manage the donations that were being made to the Convoy organizers' GoFundMe campaign.
- In order to register the Freedom 2022 Human Rights and Freedom Not-for-Profit Corporation ("**Corporation**"), Mr. Eros needed an Ontario address.
- He asked Mr. Garrah if he could use his. Mr. Garrah agreed and became a director. He resigned shortly thereafter. Then later, he received a phone call from the Convoy organizers asking him to be a director again and he agreed.
- In August 2022, Mr. Garrah was removed as a director and member of the Corporation.

The Ottawa Protest

The Adopt-A-Trucker Campaign

- Mr. Garrah founded the Adopt-A-Trucker campaign on the crowdfunding website GiveSendGo on January 18. He got the idea after speaking to Ms. Lich about the logistics of the Convoy and she reported to him that they were having issues releasing the funds raised through the GoFundMe campaign.
- Mr. Garrah's friend told him about the GiveSendGo platform. In order to set up a fundraiser on the GiveSendGo platform, it was necessary for Mr. Garrah to also create a Stripe account and connect a bank account to that Stripe account. Mr. Garrah started a separate bank account ("**Account 5474**") for this purpose. The account was in his name and no one else had access to it.
- Mr. Garrah did not have any direct communications with the Co-Founder of GiveSendGo, Jacob Wells, until sometime in late January or early February.
- Mr. Garrah was aware that Mr. Wells and Mr. Eros had a phone call with a man named John Ballard who was involved in a website in the United States called CloutHub. Mr. Garrah was not part of this conversation, but he did have a subsequent conversation with Mr. Ballard who was trying to pitch CloutHub as a platform that Adopt-A-Trucker could use. Mr. Ballard said the platform was popular and 50,000 people used it. Mr. Garrah ultimately declined because he did



research into it and found that it was not as popular a platform as Mr. Ballard claimed it was.

- Mr. Garrah's original Adopt-A-Trucker website, which was located on the GiveSendGo platform, was being overwhelmed with donors. As the GiveSendGo website only handled fundraising, Serge created a website for volunteers to register. Approximately 1,300 volunteers successfully registered. Some of the tasks for the people who signed up through the Adopt-A-Trucker campaign was to provide food and lodging. Other Ottawa residents reached out to Mr. Garrah through email (the email was also available on a Facebook page was set up by Mr. Garrah) and offered to help and he directed them to register on the website.
- Mr. Garrah found it unfortunate that the GiveSendGo platform crashed because there was a weblink on the fundraiser pointing to the Adopt-A-Trucker website to sign up as a volunteer.
- Serge added crypto currency wallet weblinks to the Adopt-A-Trucker website. The webpage contained information about donating through interact e-transfers and cryptocurrency. It also housed a sign-in sheet that allowed people to put down their names to assist the truckers in different ways, including by offering their homes to Convoy participants, and offering to do laundry.
- The Adopt-A-Trucker campaign was not just a fundraising campaign, it was a humanitarian mission only made possible through the Ottawa residents who volunteered.
- Of all the money that was raised through the Adopt-A-Trucker campaign, which was approximately \$745,000, approximately \$198,000 was spent.
- Of the \$198,000 that was spent, approx. \$14,000 was spent on food, \$15,000 on rooms at the Swiss Hotel, \$40,000 on the sound system and the stage. Mr. Garrah kept spreadsheets of all the donations and spending, and all the receipts and diligent tracked the money.
- The \$141,000 that was in Account 5474 and the \$345,000 that was in Mr. Garrah's Stripe Canada account was frozen by the Attorney General of Ontario's restraint application, which was granted on February 10.

Planning Logistics

- On or around January 18, Mr. Garrah received a call from Ms. Lich asking him to go to Ottawa and organize the "on the ground" logistics of the Convoy. Ms. Lich had initially given Mr. Bauder this task, but she was concerned that his messaging and the Canada Unity Memorandum of Understanding would overshadow the Convoy movement, which was about the COVID-19 vaccine mandates and lockdowns. Mr. Garrah agreed to replace Mr. Bauder.
- Mr. Garrah arrived in Ottawa on January 25 and was contacted by a police officer from the Ottawa Police Services ("**OPS**"), Isabelle Cyr-Pidcock, who became the liaison for Mr. Garrah.
- When Mr. Garrah first arrived to Ottawa he identified fifteen trucker captains and provided the police with the list including their contact information. Each of the fifteen trucker captains were assigned a police liaison.



- In liaising with the police, Mr. Garrah directed volunteers and Convoy participants to follow the police's protocols when they set up sites, including directing them to Coventry Road, for overflow parking, tents, and tables as well as organizing shuttles from those sites to take protesters to the downtown core.
- Mr. Garrah funded the setting up of porta potties from the funds raised in the Adopt-a-Trucker campaign.
- With the help of the Adopt-A-Trucker registered volunteers, Mr. Garrah was able to provide the contact information of Ottawa residents who had offered lodging, food, or shelter to the 120 truckers participating in the Convoy.
- Mr. Garrah's goal was to alleviate the burden of the protest on the Ottawa residents. He did this by setting up positive lines of communication between police and other authorities with the Convoy organizers, and by establishing the necessities for the arrival of the Convoy.
- Initially, Daniel Bulford was Mr. Garrah's security officer. After the first six days of the Convoy's arrival, Mr. Garrah felt he had fulfilled his commitment and others wanted to do more, so Mr. Garrah handed off all security and communication with police to Mr. Bulford and Thomas O'Conner (an EMS paramedic).
- During the first six days of the Convoy's arrival and thereafter, Mr. Bulford and Mr. O'Conner were in charge of setting up security and liaising with medical doctors and paramedic volunteers who were constantly monitoring and acting as first aid responders.
- During that same period, Mr. Garrah set up morning meetings that included approximately 14 volunteer leaders and other individuals assisting for the day with the logistics of shuttling people from overflow sites and distributing food. These individuals also assisted with other logistics. For example, Mr. Garrah and other volunteers were concerned that the restaurants that stayed open during the Convoy would become overflowed with people, and so the volunteer leaders ensured that those restaurants had enough toilet paper, had their floors cleaned, and had their sidewalks shoveled.
- Further, after the allegations that protesters were stealing food from food banks, Mr. Garrah and the volunteer leaders arranged for some of the donated food to be given to the food banks. They gave some food banks so much food that they were told to stop donating.

The Morning Briefings at the Swiss Hotel

- Mr. Garrah explained that the morning meetings were run out of the Swiss Hotel (which included Mr. Bulford, Mr. O'Connor, and volunteers). They would meet every morning over breakfast time, first to pray, then to eat, then to discuss logistics, for example, who needed food where and which porta potties needed to be cleaned. Mr. Bulford would then give a short security briefing about whether there had been any incidents the day before.
- This was, in effect, an integrated command center to provide food and other necessities to Convoy participants.



- Ms. Lich, Mr. Barber and other Convoy organizers were not part of these meetings and Mr. Garrah explained that the other Convoy organizers were running their own “operations” at the ARC Hotel. As he described it, the Adopt-A-Trucker and Corporation groups were two separate entities. Though they shared some similar goals, they did not work closely together, until the last week of the Convoy when some Convoy organizers that were meeting at the ARC Hotel came to the Swiss Hotel to try to influence the operations at the Swiss Hotel.
- Each site where protesters were located were run by different organizers. For example, the Coventry Road and the Arnprior sites had their own internal organization. This happened organically. After the first six days of the Convoy, Mr. Garrah would continue to attend the morning meetings at the Swiss Hotel to start their meetings off in prayer, but he was no longer in charge of elements of the meeting other than providing funds when he chose to.
- After the morning prayer, Mr. Bulford and Mr. O’Conner would run the rest of the morning meetings.

Engagement with Law Enforcement and the City

- Mr. Garrah spoke to OPS officer Isabelle Cyr-Pidcock on the phone about overflow locations for trucks and protesters, and shuttling protesters to the downtown core. Cyr-Pidcock texted Mr. Garrah on January 26th 10:06am: “Hey Chris! We’ve secured the RCGT (baseball stadium)- 302 Coventry Rd for the convoy coming from the east. You can start working on a shuttle for them.”¹ She also spoke with her colleagues and was communicating timing for the opening ceremony. She provided maps for the trucker captains and paired up each trucker captain with a police officer for engagement. She also arranged for Coventry Road to be used during the protest.
- Mr. Garrah had a great working relationship with law enforcement. At one point during the protest, the OPS came to the Swiss Hotel and asked to look around the hotel room that hosted their meetings. Mr. Garrah explained that they allowed OPS officers to look around because they were never trying to hide anything from them.

The Temperature of the Protest

- Mr. Garrah said that there was an overwhelming feeling of joy amongst the protesters. He described how people were laughing, singing, holding hands, and distributing free tuques and mittens. There were kids and bouncy castles. He had never seen anything like it in his life. There were 50,000 protesters and he did not see any fights amongst them. There were no bad apples and no violence that he could find. Mr. Garrah knew this because he spent many days interviewing protesters to try and find out if people were causing trouble. Mr. Bulford was also

¹ GAR00000002.



in charge of security, and he had individuals working for him on the ground and near the stage who were wearing security vests. They were in charge of shoveling and garbage control, as well as general security.

- The only problematic aspect of the protest that Mr. Garrah was made aware of was the loud honking of the truck horns. When the Court ordered them to stop, Mr. Garrah told volunteers to make photocopies of the Court Order and deliver them to as many truckers participating in the Convoy as possible on the basis that any continued honking after the Order could lead to their arrest, which would make the protesters look bad.
- The negative media reports about the protesters were false or exaggerated. Mr. Garrah did not see anyone attending the meetings at the Swiss Hotel that were interested in harassing anyone in Ottawa. The sentiment amongst Mr. Garrah and his team of organizers was that if you yelled and screamed, or caused problems, you would be asked to leave the meetings in the Swiss Hotel.
- Mr. Garrah and other individuals he met during the Convoy all thought Terry Fox was a Canadian hero. Mr. Garrah heard that the reason that someone put a tuque and a Canadian flag on the Terry Fox statue was to show their support of Terry Fox in the winter. It was not intended as an act of vandalism.
- As for the symbols of hate, the Confederate Flag is not applicable in Canada and there was only one Nazi flag, which was addressed. Someone went to talk to the individual holding the Nazi flag and he did not speak good English but was able to communicate that his messaging was that Canada was becoming a Nazi-like state with the COVID-19 vaccine mandates and lockdowns. The protesters that Mr. Garrah met were not a fringe minority of misogynists and terrorists. They were human beings.
- Mr. Garrah and Mr. Bulford talked to truck drivers and protesters who wanted to leave and move their vehicles but could not because of the cement barriers that police had put up in the downtown core. After the cement barriers were set up, the police did not let anyone bring porta potties or fuel to the blocked off area and did not let those truckers that were in the blocked off area leave.

The Fundraising and Distribution of Money on the Ground

- Mr. Garrah explained that on or around February 11, he found out that someone had set up a donation table with a water jug for cash near the main stage in Adopt-A-Trucker's name. He did not know about this donation table.
- Mr. Garrah got involved in organizing how those donations would be distributed. He and other volunteers suggested that they should give them to the truckers. Accordingly, he and Mr. Bulford's wife, Piper Bulford, set up a system whereby cash (approx. \$500) would be placed in envelopes and brought to truckers, who would then write their names and license plate numbers down on a spreadsheet. This ensured that the money was distributed evenly, and no truckers were paid twice.



- On one weekend, approximately \$20,000 was raised in a day, and approximately \$35,000 was collected and distributed overall through this effort. They also used some of it to buy BBQs to cook for the protesters.

The Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms' Involvement

- The temperature and narrative of the Convoy changed when the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms (“JCCF”) lawyers, Keith Wilson and Eva Chipiuk, became involved and took over the leadership.
- The JCCF lawyers took over after the first weekend of the Convoy on or around February 2. They started running the Facebook page for the Convoy by dictating what would be said. Nothing could be said unless it went through them. They and Dagny Pawlak also started posting on Mr. Garrah’s Adopt-A-Trucker page, which he was unhappy about.
- The JCCF lawyers also designated Ms. Lich and Mr. Barber to be the faces of the movement. The JCCF lawyers also eventually appointed Tom Marazzo to start conducting interviews as the “spokesperson” of the Convoy and took over communications with the police. Mr. Garrah stated that volunteer leaders and trucker captains were not pleased that Mr. Marazzo had been appointed to that role without their knowledge or consensus which caused a change in morale. Conversely, Mr. Garrah and his team were open with the police and had nothing to hide.
- Prior to the JCCF lawyers taking over, Ms. Lich and Mr. Barber were not the designated leaders of the Convoy: Ms. Lich was the face of the GoFundMe and GiveSendGo fundraisers, the latter which was set up by Mr. Eros.
- After the JCCF lawyers became involved, the Convoy organizers at the ARC Hotel started arguing amongst themselves.
- Mr. Garrah had heard that part of the problem was that the JCCF lawyers were very secretive and having back-room meetings with politicians. As Mr. Garrah described it, the lawyers had a lot of ideas. They started negotiating with the Mayor of Ottawa. Mr. Garrah attended one meeting of Convoy organizers where this idea was discussed, but otherwise was not part of the negotiations.
- A few days before the invocation of the *Emergencies Act*, a few of the organizers learned that there was an agreement being worked on by the JCCF lawyers with the Mayor.
- None of the Convoy organizers that Mr. Garrah spoke to were unwilling to move the trucks. They wanted to take pressure off Ottawa residents, the police, and the Mayor. But the police would not allow trucks to move.
- Mr. Garrah was not personally involved in trying to move any trucks.

Motivation to Participate

- Mr. Garrah was motivated to stay because of the stories he heard from truckers and other Convoy participants about the impacts of COVID-19 mandates and lockdowns on their lives. For instance, he recalled that a trucker told him a story



about a woman in Saskatchewan whose daughter committed suicide during a COVID-19 lockdown due to isolation.

- Mr. Garrah felt a sense of responsibility towards the protesters to ensure they were fed. He also felt a sense of responsibility towards the people who had donated to his Adopt-A-Trucker campaign.

The Impacts of the Restraint Application, *Mareva* Injunction, and *Emergencies Act*

- Mr. Garrah's bank account linked to the GiveSendGo Adopt-A-Trucker fundraising campaign was frozen pursuant to the February 10 restraint order. Mr. Garrah's son was served with the Court Order.
- The restraint order led to people harassing Mr. Garrah online.
- Mr. Garrah's account was unfrozen thirty-nine days after the February 10 restraint order, even though a report from FINTRAC had come out around February 10 saying that the monetary donations being made for the Convoy movement were not coming from foreign actors like Russia. 80% of the donations came from Canada and 20% came from the United States.
- Though Mr. Garrah had set up the 5474 Account for the Adopt-A-Trucker campaign, his wife's account was also frozen.
- After the *Emergencies Act* was invoked, Mr. Garrah's wife's Mastercard was also frozen. They were unable to put any money on their mortgage or feed their 7 children. Neighbors and others in his Christian community came to bring his family food.
- The freezing of Mr. Garrah's and his wife's account this directly disrupted Mr. Garrah's preauthorized payments.

Engagement with Other Convoy Leaders or Organizers in Ottawa

The Convoy Organizers' Relationship with Patrick King

- Mr. Garrah did not know of Mr. King prior to January 2022, and during the Convoy Mr. Garrah was not aware of Mr. King's prior political comments, positions, or affiliations.
- Mr. Garrah met Mr. King for the first time at the first Zoom meeting that Mr. Garrah attended on January 18, 2022, with the other Convoy organizers. He then saw a few of Mr. King's livestreams on social media as he was heading to and arrived in Ottawa.
- Mr. King's statement that the Convoy protest would end in bullets was taken out of context. Mr. King said he had no intention to incite violence. Mr. Garrah learned of this after speaking to Mr. King about this statement in a conversation in which Mr. King explained that he would never be violent and that he was part of the Convoy to ensure that their children and the next generation would not have to be forced to get COVID-19 vaccines. Mr. King told Mr. Garrah this his motivations were not politically partisan.



- Mr. Garrah, not knowing about Mr. King's previous political comments, positions, or affiliations, felt confident with this explanation, and was inclined to believe Mr. King because he has children of his own. Mr. Garrah's view was that Mr. King's bark was bigger than his bite.
- Because of Mr. Garrah's familial obligations, Mr. Garrah was not interested in being, and could not have afforded to be, a part of a movement that had extremism and anarchy.
- Mr. Garrah was aware of efforts by Ms. Lich, Mr. Barber and other organizers to distance themselves from Mr. King. Mr. Garrah's opinion was that they did this to please GoFundMe, who was aware and concerned about the stigma surrounding Mr. King. Ms. Lich and Mr. Barber distanced themselves to be able to continue to use GoFundMe.

The Convoy Organizers' Relationship with James Bauder

- None of the Convoy organizers wanted to be associated with Mr. Bauder's Memorandum of Understanding. He said that he was aware of the MOU before the first zoom meeting that he attended on January 18, because he had interviewed Mr. Bauder about it for a Warroomcanadda.net interview.
- Mr. Garrah's understanding was that Mr. Bauder wanted to set up a separate political committee that would oversee the Senate and the House of Commons. Mr. Garrah believed this was not how Canada's democratic system worked and the idea was senseless.
- When Mr. Garrah was asked by Ms. Lich to take over the role of organizing the logistics of the Convoy, Mr. Bauder was upset and texted Mr. Garrah some alarming things. Mr. Garrah showed the text to Mr. Bulford, who cautioned him against engaging with Mr. Bauder.
- After Mr. Bauder was pushed out of the Convoy organizers inner circle, he tried to participate in the protests in Confederation Park, but he was shut down.

The End of the Protest

- Mr. Garrah said that he believed the protesters would have left voluntarily if the Prime Minister had positively acknowledged the presence of the protestors in Ottawa, treated them as human beings, acknowledged their concerns, or possibly even come out to talk to them.

Social Media

- In starting the Adopt-a-Trucker fundraising campaign, Mr. Garrah used Facebook as a social media platform.
- Mr. Garrah watched some videos on social media that covered the Convoy like the YouTube podcast "Live at the Shed".
- He also watched some videos on social media of doctors talking about the COVID-19 vaccine mandates and lockdowns.



- Mr. Garrah occasionally watches Fox News and was interviewed by them during the Convoy.